



News Conference

Office of Public Relations
3600 South Constitution Boulevard
West Valley City, Utah 84119-3720
Office: (801) 963-3466
Fax: (801) 955-3604
Email: aaron.crim@wvc-ut.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Aaron Crim, Director of Public Relations & Neighborhood Services, 801-963-3466 (media only)
Mike Winder, Mayor, 801-633-1300

UTOPIA Awarded \$16 Million in Broadband Stimulus Funding

WHAT: News Conference

WHEN: Thursday, August 19, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Utah State Capitol, South Steps
300 North State Street

WHO: UTOPIA city mayors and business leaders

WHY: The Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA) today announced that they've been awarded just over \$16 million dollars in funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. UTOPIA's grant is anticipated to produce more than 200 new jobs, complete an additional 20% of the needed network infrastructure, and provide growth in eight of UTOPIA's 16 cities. West Valley City, UTOPIA's largest participating City, is estimating that this will provide funding to bring fiber within reach for more than 80% of its residents.

"This grant will help us bring the fastest Internet in the country to more West Valley City homes and businesses sooner," said Mike Winder, mayor of the largest UTOPIA city. "I personally talked with several state officials about this project, as well as Vice President Biden and White House staff, and appreciate the trust the federal government has bestowed in West Valley City and the other cities of UTOPIA," he said.

The grant was awarded to begin connecting nearly 400 schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities, community college locations, government offices and other important community institutions in sections of Perry, Payson, Midvale, Murray, Centerville, Layton, Orem, and West Valley City.

"The White House has joined national broadband leaders in recognizing the importance of UTOPIA's model in providing fiber to communities," said UTOPIA Board Chair Kane Loader, City Manager of Midvale. "This award is another big step in the series of successes UTOPIA, and its management team, have had in recent years. And it's a bright indication of many more to come. Government built open-fiber, with private sector

service providers utilizing the network, is the telecom infrastructure of the future,” he said.

“Our grant application was strong because we’ve proven the need for the UTOPIA network through the innovative, sustainable model we completed in Brigham City,” says Todd Marriott, UTOPIA’s Executive Director. “This grant will accelerate our ability to expand the network and leverage the cities’ continued investment in the network; it proves the financing we’re seeking is more crucial than ever. But, just as importantly, this grant ensures that the UTOPIA network continues to expand economic development, education, public safety, telemedicine and other opportunities for these cities. We’re grateful for the cities that had the vision and foresight to participate in this application, and we’re thrilled to be able to congratulate them on their success.”

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